

Response to Final Office Action
U.S. Serial No. 10/056,838
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REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-8, 16-20 and 23 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 7 and 16 have been amended, and Claims 3, 6, 18 and 21-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. FORMAL MATTERS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Pantuck for acknowledging the allowability of claims 6, 7 and 22. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the claim features of claims 3 and 6. Applicant has amended claim 16 to include the claim features of claims 18, 21 and 22. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 16 are now allowable and respectfully request notification to this effect.

II. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,181,280 to Zachary, Jr. (hereafter "Zachary, Jr.").

Claims 8 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Zachary, Jr. or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Zachary, Jr.

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,670,946 to Olivieri (hereafter "Olivieri").

These rejections are respectfully traversed. While Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention, Applicant has amended the claims to expedite prosecution. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are now moot and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 3, 5, 18 and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Olivieri.

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Claims 4 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Olivieri in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,311,372 to Wang (hereafter "Wang").

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,451,234 to Wassermann (hereafter "Wassermann") in view of Olivieri.

These rejections are respectfully traversed. While Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention, Applicant has amended the claims to expedite prosecution. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are now moot and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons given above, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-8, 16-20 and 23 define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

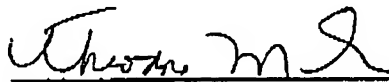
The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete Response to the Final Office Action mailed August 11, 2004, and early and favorable consideration of the claims is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/12/04



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